who would be the service providers. The survey indicates that farming community would welcome such a network and would be willing to pay for certain selected services to be rendered by these Clinics/Centres, such as services relating to soil and water quality testing, livestock health cover, custom hiring of machinery and implements, seed processing and extension consultancy services. The response was more positive from progressive farmers and those with large/medium holdings. The survey of agriculture graduates also indicated that the scheme would be, by and large, welcome provided, it had a provision for training in entrepreneurial and business management skills.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation after wide consultation with various stakeholders has brought out a "Policy framework for Agricultural Extension (2001)" in conformity with the National Agriculture Policy. The provisions including private participation and payment for services are being pilot tested under Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of World Bank funded National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). It covers Seven States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab with four districts in each. Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs), as an autonomous organization, have been established at the district level representing various stakeholders with an objective of working out new institutional arrangements to facilitate extension reforms. These efforts are proposed to be operationalized/up-scaled during Xth Plan through a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme—Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms.

Pollution and noise levels in metros

*180. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the pollution and noise levels in the metro cities have increased during the last three months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to minimise the pollution and noise levels in the metro cities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in the last three months, the pollution and noise levels increased during festive periods. This is due to bursting of fire crackers, use of loud speakers and higher vehicular movement.

(c) Government has initiated several steps for prevention and control of pollution and noise levels in metro and mega cities of the country. These include:

- A comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution.
- Effluent and emission standards for various industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
- Control of vehicular pollution through promotion of clean fuels, introduction of stringent emission norms and fuel specifications.
- Notifications of standards for control of noise pollution emanating from various sources such as vehicles, diesel generating sets, fire crackers and loud speakers.
- Promotion of cleaner technologies for control of industrial pollution.
- Management of Municipal and Bio-medical wastes.
- Waste minimisation and utilisation.
- Appropriate siting of industries so as to minimise impact on eco-systems.
- Environmental impact assessment for 30 categories of development projects for minimising the environmental impact.
- Strengthening the monitoring network and institutional capabilities to facilitate and improve enforcement mechanism.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Milk quality standards

1041. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the milk quality standards and the mandatory screening at farmers' level, to ensure infection-free and good quality milk processing and exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has been asked to lay down the quality parameters of milk;

(d) if so, the recommendations of BIS in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?